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CLUB MEETING ON THE FIRST FRIDAY
REPEATER MEETING ON THE THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

MARCH 1978



PRESIDENT C.E.(REX) Cottrell W4GPL
800 Bay Point Dr. Madeira Beach 33708
Phone 391-5158

EDITOR-PUBLISHER Jack Adams W4NOK
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SPARC GAP

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD FRIDAY MARCH 3rd, 1978

RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS 8:00 pm

818 4th Street North , St. Petersburg, Florida

PROGRAM...

BUD NORWOOD WILL BE THE SPEAKER ON INSURANCE AS IT APPLIES TO YOU. THIS SHOULD BE A VERY INTERESTING SUBJECT.. Y'ALL COME.

FEBRUARY 3rd Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by President Rex Cottrell, W4GPL. There were 62 members and guests present.

Rex, W4GPL introduced the new officers for 1978. He then asked the members and guests to introduce themselves. Since the December meeting was the combined Christmas dinner and installation of officers and program by the Lawmen quartet there were no minutes to be read.

The Treasurers report was read and approved. We have \$181.31 in the checking account and \$667.51 in the savings account for a total of \$ 848.82. Information was given out on how to contact your legislator to try to get auto tags for amateurs from \$ 5.00 per year back to \$ 1.00. Everyone was encouraged to write.

Joe Bryan, WA4FEN talked about the festival of states parade. Communications for the youth parade and bike races will be taken care of by react. April 4th is the night parade and amateurs will handle communications for this. The day parade on April 8th and amateurs will handle communications for this.

Amateurs have also been asked to handle communications for both the Southland Regatta and the ladies L P G A Golf Association. The dates for these events are February 17th, 18th, 19th.

Woody, K4SCL also told about the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) that was held on Sunday January 29th. Some 300 messages were handled during a 3 hour period. He thanked all those who participated for a job well done.

In the absence of Faith WA4WOU our Secretary who is in the hospital, Alice, WB4ZPU recorded the minutes. Refreshments were served during the meeting.

de WA4ZPU.

EULOGY TO A BENEVOLENT LADY

As we pause on our journey through life, we recall one who gave her "all" to amateur radio, in her own quiet way. W4TDK-Naomi Spence, a Charter member of SPARC, worked "beyond the call of duty". She was responsible for many obtaining their licenses of all classes; always willing to help anyone, though tired after working all day as a legal Secretary.

When W4WPF-Marvin Kaniss joined the Silent Keys suddenly in 1964, it was Naomi who took over his job as Secty./Treas. of SPARC & continued until 1973, when the job was divided & she continued as Treasurer until 1976.

She was devoted & cared for her parents & husband until they passed away. A quiet, gentle, independent person; admired & loved by her many friends & employers, will be greatly missed.

SPARC GAP

W4TDK - Naomi Spence

Naomi Reese Spence came, with her parents, to St. Petersburg many years ago, from Ohio. She married W.C. Spence-W4EYI, known as "Spence" &, after many years of association with amateur radio & SPARC, received her General Class License in July 1951, with the call of W4TDK ("Torn Down Kilowatt"). Being a very ambitious person, she was not satisfied until she passed her Class A License in October 1952, which type license was discontinued in December 1952 & is now Advance Class.

Naomi's enthusiasm for amateur radio soon "caught on" to many XYLS & finally, in November 1952, she started her first Code Class. She was responsible for the majority of the local YLs obtaining their licenses & gave unstintingly of her time. She could always find time & gladly checked out anyone before they visited the FCC to take their exam or help any individual in any way possible to become a "ham".

For many years, Naomi's favorite pastime was working 20 meter c.w.; from which she had many rare DX QSL cards. Also worked 10 meters phone. However, October 1954, Naomi's life changed when "Spence" joined the Silent Keys. After a period of adjustment, she took a course to brush up on her shorthand & finally accepted a job, as Legal Secretary & Bookkeeper for Snelling & Dadswell, Attys. Up to the time of her passing, she worked for Nelson, Beckett, Nelson & Thomas, Attys. for 18 years.

In November of 1954, W4TDK was instrumental in organizing the local YL Club-"SPARCYLS" (St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club YLS), of which she was the first President. During her year, she piloted the small courageous group of 5 licensed YLs, through the first 4th District YLRL Convention, held in conjunction with the 1955 S.E. ARRL Convention, sponsored by SPARC, in St. Petersburg. SPARCYLS was, by the way, the first YL Club to organize in the State of Florida & the "mother" of the Floridoras.

When SPARC-GAP's Editor & originator, W4CZZ-Dick Seeds joined the Silent Keys in 1955, Naomi & W4BAV-Cathy persuaded W4WPF-Marvin Kaniss to act as Editor, with them as ghost writers. They burnt the midnight oil many week-ends, compiling the Bulletin & their identity was not revealed until 1957. So Naomi was really the Editor until 1963, when W4VOK-Jack Adams was persuaded to take it over.

At the SPARC Hamfest, in 1958, Naomi was awarded a plaque which read: "1958 Award of merit...SPARC...Naomi Spence-W4TDK..In appreciation of outstanding...Service to Amateur Radio Code Classes." Besides Code Classes, participation in all Club activities, Naomi was in charge of the Registration Desk at all Hamfests.

July 1964, W4WPF-Marvin, Secty/Treas. of SPARC, joined the Silent Keys quite suddenly. W4TDK came to the aid of SPARC & took over the job, which she held until 1973, when the job was divided & Naomi continued as Treas. until 1976, when she resigned.

Besides being a member of SPARC & SPARCYLS, she belonged to the ARRL: YLRL: Royal Order of Wouff Hong; Floridora YLS; Nat'l. Legal Secty.; St. Petersburg Chapter of Legal Secty. She held G.P. 20 wpm; Rag Chewers; Wouff Hong; Breeze Shooters; SPARC & Floridora Certificates.

Naomi lived alone at 420-44th Ave. N.E. She leaves her Sister-in-law, Virginia Reese (her Brother passed away several years ago) & 2 nephews: James & Tom. She will be sadly missed & we extend our heartfelt sympathy to her family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
SPARC and SPARC REPEATER TEAM.



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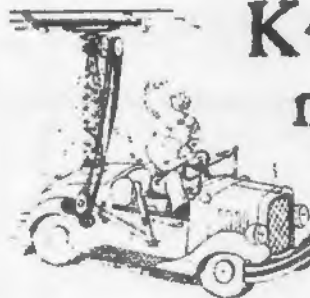
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SPARC GAP

THE PREZ SEZ

Hi Fellow SPARC CLUB MEMBERS:

Lets all hope this is a good start for the Club & the New Year.

It is with very deep regret that we think of the good friends & members who have gone ahead of us. However havent we been fortunate to have gained all our new friends and club members?

With best wishes and lots of good luck we want to say "THANKS" to the retiring officers and the many club members for last years Club success.

At this time the final plans and programs for 1978 are not finalized enough for our posting, but lets hope the next SPARC GAP will carry the story in plenty of detail.

Due to the rumor, "That poor health follows prospective Club Member Officer Candidates." We will seriously consider a medical check-up requirement as a standard part of the qualifications.

Those of us who have made forced trips to various hospitals are so very appreciative of Club and net interest, for our physical improvement and/ or progress, that it is difficult to say how high our appreciation is. So please do believe me that we want you to know they mean a lot to us.

Yours for a wonderful 1978.

Raf WVGPL

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE TVI TROUBLES, READ THIS :

Guglielmo Marconi needed police protection from people who threatened to kill him because they thought his radio waves were harmful. The frightened people complained that the radio signals were passing thru their bodies and making it impossible for them to sleep. A wealthy woman charged that the waves made her feet itch. A German man publicly made plans to go to England and shoot Marconi but he was turned away by British authorities.

The hostility toward the inventor came after years of being ignored. In 1894, the 20 year old electronic pioneer coaxed his crude equipment to send a signal a few feet across his room. Next year his signals spanned the length of his father's home in Bologna, Italy. When Marconi patriotically offered his invention to the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, he was snubbed.

Marconi packed up his equipment, and with his Irish mother, sailed to England. Surely, he thought, the worlds greatest maritime power could use ship-to-shore communications. British customs officials ignored his frantic efforts to explain that his radio was not a bomb. The delicate instrument was damaged by their forcing it open.

The following year a family friend helped him gain the attention of the British Postal authorities and he demonstrated that he could send a signal from the General Post Office to a nearby building. The press and public showed no interest in the feat.

Marconi then constructed a bamboo tower that thrust his transmitter 90 feet into the air and sent his wireless signals nearly two miles. He had built something too big to be ignored and the press took notice. Years later, he sadly observed, "The calm life is over."

The publicity aroused fears in a previously indifferent public about the possible harmful effects of radio waves. A flood of crank mail - some containing threats on his life - came pouring in. Guarded by police, Marconi moved his operation to Wales in 1897. Soon he was transmitting signals out 25 miles, then to 150, and in 1901 had spanned the ocean with his wireless signals.

It was more than two years after this that the public outcry diminished enough for Scotland Yard to withdraw the police guards protecting the man who developed radio for the world.

From the Two Rivers ARC (Pennsylvania) "Spark Gap"

Via Mike & Key
Hal Gruber W8MGP
Editor

SPARC GAP

SPARC REPEATER NEWS

At last meeting, January 20, our annual budget was approved by the membership as proposed in last month's SPARC GAP. Membership dues are rolling in nicely, so it looks like we are on sound footing financially. However, if you have not paid your 1978 dues, you should do so real soon in order to be listed in this year's roster.

At the Miami Hamboree, January 21, we were fortunate to find a good 60 watt Prog. Line transmitter strip for \$25. It is now a spare for the repeater. We also bought two 5894 tubes, finals for our 80 watt strip, and 3 touch tone pads.

Public Service events are the big items this time of the year. The nation-wide Simulated Emergency Test (S.E.T.) took place on January 28 and 29. Pinellas County Radio Amateurs responded splendidly. We estimate 150 stations were active. We count 113 stations with one of the big groups not yet reporting. Some 600 or 700 messages were handled by the Pinellas Emergency Net (PEN) with its various branches. Bill Johnson, WB4ALH, our SEC, started things off Saturday morning by simulating hurricane Evelyn crossing Florida from Fort Pierce to Venice. The Southern Florida Emergency Net (SFEN) was called into simulated emergency session, first on 3940 KHz then 7247 KHz. East Coast soon lost all power, and then West Coast, so only emergency-powered stations could be on the air. Were you one of them? Don't be caught without emergency power next time!

On Sunday, Pinellas County was in simulated emergency conditions with Evelyn churning the Gulf waters 150 miles off shore. We had simulated telephone and power failures with some flooding. The Pinellas Emergency Net was active on SPARC Repeater 147.66/147.06, Metro Repeater 147.96/147.36, TERA Largo Repeater 146.37/146.97, FGARC Largo Repeater 223.34/224.94 and Ten Meters 28,720 KHz. SFEN continued in session, passing considerable Red Cross traffic. Upper Pinellas chapter was manned by CARS, while South Pinellas chapter was manned by SPARC. Pinellas County hospitals were manned (16 of them) and actively generating traffic, as well as a few nursing homes, Civil Defense, Fire and Police Departments. A good work-out was had by all. And it was fun, too!

Public service events coming up are Southland Regatta, Feb. 18, with communications by SPARC managed by K4NAN, LPGA tournament Feb. 17 thru 19, communications managed by WA4FEN, and Festival of States April 4 and 8, WA4FEN representing Sun Coaster, as usual, and our President, W4GPL taking personal charge of SPARC participation. Contact him for your spot in Night Parade, Day Parade or both. Be sure your rig is working on the frequency to be used: 147.66/147.06 for First Aid stations, 146.49 for Golf Carts and 223.66 for Courtesy Busses.

Our congratulations to local new Official Emergency Stations: K4LPV WB4BNL WB4DWU W4GPL K5IHH/4 K4ISS WA4KCR WB4LXH W4KIM WA4LJT W4OBL K8PXM/4 K4QCG W44GV and K4SCL.

Our sincere appreciation and admiration goes to K4ISS and WA4TJG whose D/F prowess quickly located an unintentionally keyed rig timing out the repeater.

73 de K4SCL



It's not my intention to embarrass anyone. What I want to do is ask you a question. But sometimes it's hard to discuss spiritual matters with a stranger. Therefore, you received this note instead.

My question deals with an experience the Bible calls Salvation. "Have you ever had this experience? If you haven't, would you know how?" I was thinking you might not, that is why I ask.

We are going to die, aren't we? This great event awaits us all, but strangely we live as though it were not going to happen. We settle down in a squirrel—cage routine of 3 meals a day, on the job, and back to bed, giving no thought to the fantastic step just ahead. That hardly seems sensible, does it?

The Salvation the Bible offers is preparation for death. Being saved removes the fear of death and gives it the character of "Graduation Day." We can actually meet death with the satisfied feeling that the best is yet to come. And the experience is so simple it would be a shame for you to miss it, because I was too busy to mention it. Here it is.

Salvation is an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ. Though you heard He died on the cross 2000 years ago, He is alive and eager to save you. He does it by coming into your heart and life. The Salvation invitation reads like this:

"Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in..."(Rev.3:20).

That door is the door of your heart. Just as you would answer the knock of a friend at your home, so can you open your heart to Christ. And He will come in. Want to satisfy yourself about this? Here is all you need do. In a quiet moment today or tonight as you lie on your pillow, pray out and say: "Dear Lord, if you are really waiting outside my heart, I open the door right now. I invite you to come in and make yourself real to me." Isn't that simple? In the same second you are forgiven every sin. That's what prepares you to meet death - and God.



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WD4BAJ John Shinkle	1937 N. Allendale Ave	Sarasota	33580 958-6706
K4PKH Jim Dwyer	Oak Crest Park (A3)	1001 Ulmerton Largo	33541 586-1215
K5IHH Bob Browning	419 Rear 39 Ave No	33703	525-8410
WD 4DCN Willard Gortner	PO Box 40444	33743	381-1234 & 584-1535
N4ZY (WB4TFJ) John Brady			
WA4GTD John Fernandez	3147 47 Ter. No	33714	522-7742
W4OLL (WB4GFD) Robert Strid			
WD4EFM Thomas Cobb	3237 Tyrone Blvd.	33710	384-4321
WB4BCF DANA Parks	705 Country Park	Clearwater	33516 536-7289
WA4MSY Henry Raposa	10800 -88 A,N.	Seminole	33542 397-1124
WB4VWO Gene			
WA4PKX Carol	Scarbrow 35 Harbor Woods Circle	Clear.	33519 726-2633
K4 JRN Paul Smith	1920 25 A. N.	33713	896-3491
WA4AEW David Downward	6171 40 A.N.	33709	381-9338
WA4IIT Ernest Endicott	1556 56 A.N.	33703	525-5178
WD4DRM Edwin Davis	5647 Manchester St. N	33703	527-5043
W4PLW Jack Mandel	4301 11 Ave N.	33713	
WB2WFH John Cudahy	5927 Burlington A.N.	33710	343-6835
WB4NDQ Grady Lilly	1191 Eden Isle Dr. N.E	33704	896-8044

For those who have not paid their dues, to the club, this will be your last issue of SPARC GAP !!!

ON THE SICK LIST:-

Faith Morgan, Our Secty, has had her baptism of fire undergoing surgery along with complications. She is in St. Pete General and at press time was to have no calls or visitors.

Jim Keyes, K4FCW our past President also had surgery, he was home at press time very weak but recovering.

SPARC AND ALL THEIR FRIENDS WISH A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO THESE VERY GOOD MEMBERS.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 690 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT FEBRUARY 2 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Individuals and clubs wishing to put a new repeater on the air may be confused by FCC's delay in untangling the repeater deregulation question. Docket 21033 would have lifted the requirement for a separate repeater license. However, important questions have caused the FCC to reconsider this action. Because of the stay in implementation, repeater rules in effect before Docket 21033 are the present rules. Though an interested party cannot obtain his own repeater license at the present time, there is a solution enabling the party to legally operate a repeater. For the pertinent details please send an s.a.s.e. to ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. AR

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 688 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT JAN 12 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

February presents an excellent opportunity for every amateur to test frequency measuring skills by taking part in an ARRL Frequency Measuring Test. WIAW will transmit signals for measurement on February 12 at 0300 and 0600 UTC. This is the evening of February 11, local time. The first test will take place on approximately 14128 7040 and 3552 kHz. Three hours later the second series of test signals will be transmitted approximately on 14082 7030 and 3561 kHz. Each participant's report will be compared with that of a professional frequency measuring laboratory. Further details appear on page 91 of January QST. AR

S P A R C - G A P

Continued

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU

Complainant:
Address:

Date:

Amateur:
Address:

Call Sign:

TO THE COMPLAINANT

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter reporting interference to television reception which you believe to be caused by an amateur station located at the above address.

Amateur radio stations are licensed under the authority of the Commission to communicate with other amateurs and to transmit signals or energy for other purposes, using certain specified groups of frequencies, which normally do not interfere with other radio services. If, however, a receiver such as a television receiver is located in close proximity to the amateur station, it is possible that signals from the amateur station may be picked up by the receiver even though it is tuned to an entirely different frequency. Experience has shown that this condition, when it exists, is in general attributable to the basic design of the receiver in question - the result of an engineering design compromise inherent in many present day television receivers.

The method of elimination or alleviation of interference will depend to some extent upon the frequency in use by the interfering station. Inability of a television receiver to reject signals from a nearby station operating on a frequency lower than television frequencies, and not having spurious emissions on television frequencies, can usually be corrected by installing a high-pass filter at the television receiver. The amateur's assistance should be solicited and adjustments made on a cooperative basis. It is suggested that you advise the manufacturer or dealer from whom the receiver was purchased concerning this difficulty, in order that the assistance of his engineering staff may be brought to bear upon this problem.

The amateur station licensee concerned is being requested to carefully check his equipment and to make any adjustments that may be needed to assure that he is operating in accordance with the terms of his license as well as good engineering practice and that no spurious signals are being radiated. The Commission will require that the amateur comply with its rules and regulations, and that he suppress any emissions on television channels, but whenever the fault is at the receiver only, and not at the amateur station, the interference can be eliminated only at the receiver.

TO THE AMATEUR

Cooperation by both the amateur licensee and the complainant is of prime importance in the solution of television or other interference problems involving amateur stations. An amateur who receives a complaint should advise the complainant that he is eager to seek a mutually satisfactory solution to the problem. It is appropriate to explain that there are numerous sources of possible interference; however, if prearranged tests show that the transmitter is at fault, prompt action is required in making adjustments or changes necessary in order to comply strictly with the Commission's rules governing the Amateur Radio Service.

SPARC-GAP



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GUN CONTROL

The Saturday night special is a person, not a handgun. Society needs to be protected from the person, and one of the best protections against the Saturday night special is a good, clean and safe handgun. It matters not the cost of the weapon, it matters not the engraving thereon, it matters not the length of the barrel, it matters not its melting point, it matters not the material of the handles.

It matters that it is an effective weapon that is safely constructed and can shoot where it is aimed and will safeguard the shooter and those he seeks to protect against the Saturday night special.

The use of handguns is a 'moral' issue. Moral persons use their weapons in a safe and moral manner. Likewise, the criminal abhors looking down the barrel of a handgun, and the prospect of doing so makes him a sudden moral man—at least for a moment or two. Even the sociopathic personality will think twice with a pistol in his face.

It matters that a handgun can make loud noises to deter the Saturday night special. (A hole in the wall is preferable to crime in the home.)

It matters that the handgun is carried easily and with complete safety, it matters that the handgun owner knows the seriousness of gun handling, and it matters that the handgun owner is a moral and responsible person.

Sources close to the White House say the Carter Administration anti-gun bill has received approval and will be dispatched to the Congress early in next year's session. With this bill, the whims of the Secretary of Treasury could drastically alter the lives of anyone in the country who now lawfully owns and uses firearms. The bill is loaded with much more than 'gun control' and should be studied by all.

The time to defeat this initiative is now. The time to inform our fellow Americans of the dangers of gun control is now. And, the time to recognize that percentage-wise, the number of guns used in crimes is infinitesimal, is now.

AMERICANS MUST REALIZE that the real purpose of the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution was to give the citizen the means of protecting himself from the armed might of the United States should it ever be used to control the citizenry. This is the amendment that says that a well-regulated militia is necessary to a 'free' people and that the government shall be forever prohibited from infringing upon the right of the citizens to keep and bear arms.

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SEVENTY-THREE

Elmo W. Philips, W6SX, has submitted the following information regarding the expression "73".

The traditional expression "73" goes right to the beginning of the land-line telegraph days. It is found in some of the earliest editions of the numerical codes, each with a different definition, but each with the same idea in mind -- it indicated that the end, or signature, was coming up. But there is no data to prove that any of these were used.

The first authentic use of 73 is in the publication, The National Telegraph Review and Operator's Guide, first published in April 1857. At that time, 73 meant "My love to you!" Succeeding issues of this publication continued to use this definition of the term. Curiously enough, some of the other numerals then used have the same definition now that they had then, but within a short time, the use of 73 began to change. In The National Telegraph Convention, the numeral was changed from the Valentine-type sentiment to a vague sign of fraternalism. Here 73 was a greeting, a friendly "word" between operators and it was so used on all wires.

In 1859, the Western Union Company set up the standard "92 Code". A list of numerals from one to 92 was compiled to indicate a series of prepared phrases for use by the operators on the wires. Here, in the 92 Code, 73 changes from a fraternal sign to a very flowery "accept my compliments," which was in keeping with the florid language of that era. Over the years from 1859 to 1900, the many manuals of telegraphy show variations of this meaning. Dodge's The Telegraph Instructor shows it merely as "Compliments". The Twentieth Century Manual of Railway and Commercial Telegraphy defines it in two ways, one listing as "my compliments to you" but in the glossary of abbreviations it is merely "compliments". Theodore A. Edison's Telegraphy Self-Taught shows a return to "accept my compliments". By 1908, however a later edition of the Dodge Manual gives us today's definition of "best regards" with a backward look at the older meaning in another part of the work where it also lists it as "compliments".

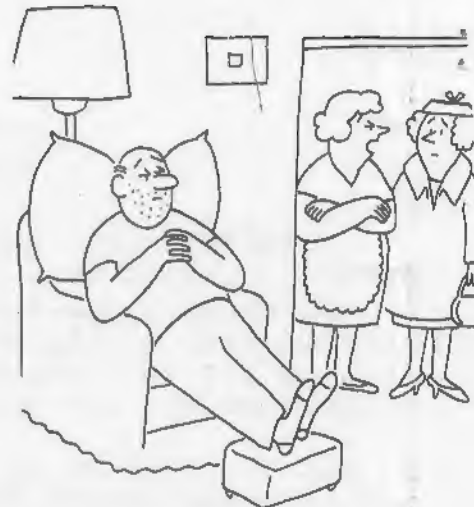
"Best regards" has remained ever since as the "put-it-down-in-black-and-white" meaning of 73, but it has acquired overtones of much warmer meaning. Today, amateurs use it more in the manner that James Reid had intended that it be used -- a "friendly word between operators."

The above via X-Mitter, Penn Wireless Assn., publication.

SEVENTY-SIX

Although we have run this new number before I think it bears repeating under the above history of "73". The number "76" means God Bless You. Dear friend of mine, there is no way... In which I could address you... With more sincerity of heart... Than just to say God bless you.. My words could wish that all your cares... Would be a little lighter... And I could send you greeting cards... To make your hours brighter... My lips could call good luck to you... Or whisper happy land.ng... And I could promise you the depth... Of faithful understanding... But I am sure no other thought... Or message would impress you... As lovingly or lastingly... As asking God to bless you... And so I say God bless you, friend... In every good endeavor... And may His guiding grace be yours... Forever and forever.

Via Mike & Key
Hal Gruber W6MGP
Editor.



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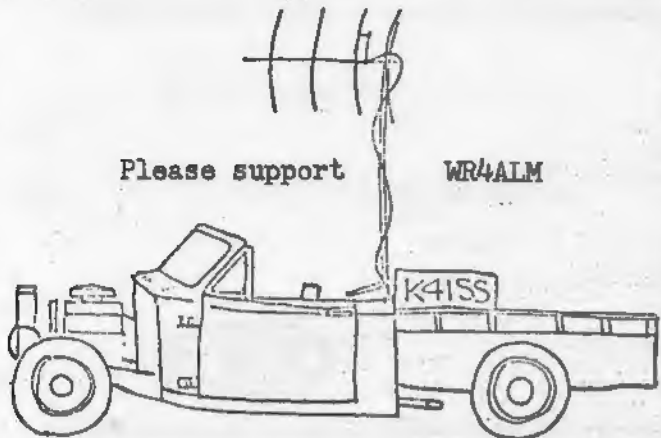
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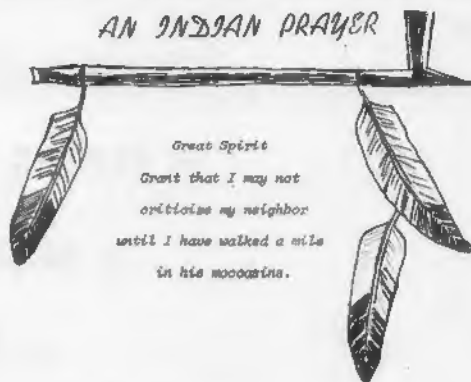
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